

Claims 30-43 are dependent on claim 29, directly or indirectly, and contain the subject matter of claims 16, 17, and 20-28, revised to overcome the §112 rejections of record, as explained below.

According to the Office Action, claims 18, 20, 22, and 25-28 are free of the prior art and would be allowable if rewritten independently of the rejected claims and revised to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, and 35 USC 112, second paragraph, of record. Present, replacement claims 29-49 contain this allowable subject matter, as indicated above, and are written to overcome the section 112 rejections of record; therefore, the present claims are allowable.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for timely notification of allowable subject matter.

Claims 15-28 were rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, for alleged lack of enablement. Reconsideration is requested in view of the replacement claims, submitted hereby.

According to the statement of rejection, the present specification satisfies the section 112 enablement requirements for converting "chalcopryite" to covelline and pyrite by the presently claimed process. Since the present claims are all limited to the conversion of "chalcopryite," enabled by the specification under section 112, first paragraph, according to the statement of rejection, the rejection is overcome.

Claims 15-28 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite. Reconsideration is requested in view of the instant Amendment. The rejected claims are revised, hereby, so that:

- "the addition" is changed to the active "adding";

- alleged antecedent basis for "the reaction product" is resolved in that the ores being converted "to covelline, pyrite, and accompanying sulfides" is changed to read that the ores are converted "to a reaction product comprising covelline, pyrite, and accompanying sulfides";
- alleged antecedent basis for limitation "said iron" is resolved by changing the limitation to "iron" (deleting "said");
- subject matter preceded by "especially" in the rejected claims is made the subject matter of separate, dependent claims by the instant amendment;
- parenthesis are not found in the present claims; and
- antecedent basis for limitation "the sulfide group" is resolved by changing the limitation to "accompanying sulfides."

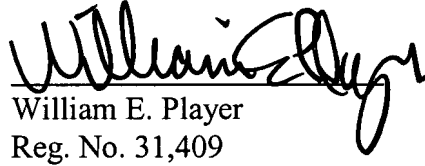
The rejection under 35 USC 103(a) is rendered moot by limiting the claims, hereby, to the subject matter found allowable by the examiner.

Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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